

TIP OF THE

March 12, 2004

SWORD

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey



Incirlik transitions to wing structure



TIP OF THE SWORD

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Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

The new Air Force test utility uniform is going to be tested by one Airman at Incirlik. In an upcoming issue, the *Tip of the Sword* staff will ask the Airman several questions about the new uniform. Submit questions for the Airman to tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil. The blue, gray and green tiger-stripe camouflage ensemble includes many new features intended to increase functionality while providing a distinctive look for the 21st century Airman.

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Courtesy photo

Base volunteers prepare a stray cat for surgery Saturday. Fourteen volunteers helped capture, neuter and give rabies shots to 16 stray cats before returning them to the streets. See related story, Page 6.

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Photos by Senior Airman James Seymore III

(Above) (Left to right) Staff Sgt. Cedric Shephard, 39th Air Base Wing information management NCO in charge; Staff Sgt. Edward Parrish, 39th ABW commander chief master sergeant executive assistant; and Chief Master Sgt. Joseph Toohey, 39th ABW command chief master sergeant, unfurl the 39th ABW flag during today's redesignation ceremony. (Right) Lt. Gen. Glen Moorhead (left), 16th

Air Force commander, Naples, Italy; accepts the 39th Air Base Group flag from Col. Bill MacLure, 39th Air Base Group commander, as he relinquishes command. Col. Michael Gardiner (far right), former 11th Wing vice commander, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., waits to accept the 39th Air Base Wing banner from General Moorhead as he assumes command.

Ceremony marks beginning of change

By Airman 1st Class Stephanie Hammer
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The 39th Air Base Group deactivated and the 39th Air Base Wing activated during a ceremony here Friday.

A wing structure provides Incirlik Air Base with the level of experienced leadership, supervision and knowledge necessary to ensure the base can continue to successfully execute its mission, U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials said.

"Incirlik certainly has been a place of change over the last year, and it continues to change," said Col. William MacLure, former 39th Air Base Group commander, at the ceremony. "The move from group to wing will provide Incirlik the leadership it needs to better manage its current tasks and be ready to take on any future tasks.

"Incirlik is a unique base with unique and ever-changing mission demands," he continued. "We don't have a lot of folks and many sections are only one or two deep, so we ask a lot from everyone, at every level, every day."

The redesignation will be transparent to most base people and will minimally affect day-to-day operations, officials said.

During the ceremony, Colonel MacLure relinquished command of the group and Col. Michael Gardiner assumed command of the wing. Colonel Gardiner is the former vice commander, 11th Wing, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.

"The Air Force is constantly changing, and Incirlik is no exception. With change, there will be new challenges to face, and we will continue to meet those challenges head on," Colonel Gardiner said. "I have no doubt the men and women of team Incirlik will rise to this occasion, just as they've done in the past. Incirlik is and will remain a strategic location for fighting the Global War on Terrorism and supporting a full range of operations."

Col. Robert Suminsby Jr., former advanced weapons and sensors chief for the Air Force Element Special Programs at the Pentagon, is the new vice commander.

Additionally, the 39th Maintenance Group and the 39th Mission Support Group stood up.

Col. Michael Arnold, 39th ABG deputy commander, is the 39th MXG commander until Col. Mary Parker, former 605th Air Support Squadron commander, Yokota Air Base, Japan, arrives.

The 39th MSG is led by Col. David Wilmot, former tactical evaluations for Allied Air Forces Southern Europe, Naples, Italy.



Col. Michael Gardiner
*39th Air Base Wing
commander*



Col. Robert Suminsby Jr.
*39th Air Base Wing
vice commander*



Col. Michael Arnold
*39th Maintenance Group
commander*



Col. David Wilmot
*39th Mission Support Group
commander*

Manpower named best in command

Office also home to USAFE's 2003 civilian of the year

**By Airman 1st Class
Stephanie Hammer**
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The 39th Air Base Wing's Manpower and Organization Office was named U.S. Air Forces in Europe's 2003 Small Manpower and Organization Office of the Year Feb 23.

Martha Valdez, manpower analyst from the same office, was also named USAFE's 2003 Manpower Installation-Level Intermediate Civilian of the Year.

The manpower office is tasked with identifying the minimum amount of essential people needed to accomplish the missions at Incirlik as effectively as possible given resource restraints.

"The constant changes going on at Incirlik are a challenge," said Senior Master Sgt. Don Dufner, 39th ABW Manpower and Organization Office chief.

Ever since the office received word of their success, Sergeant Dufner said he can't stop smiling and talking about how great the manpower office is.

"When I took over the office in July, I told everybody in the office it was my goal to win this award because they were doing great things, and I knew we were going to continue on that same path," Sergeant Dufner said.

"We have a group of outstanding professionals and a super manpower analyst," he continued. As an office, we're successful because we have great teamwork."

Ms. Valdez contributes her success to hard work and the support she receives from her boss.



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

(From left) Senior Master Sgt. Don Dufner, 39th Air Base Wing Manpower and Organization Office chief, Master Sgt. Willie Johnson, superintendent, and Tech. Sgt. Anthony George, analyst, revalidate manpower standards. The manpower office was named U.S. Air Forces in Europe's 2003 Small Manpower and Organization Office of the Year.

"Being a hard worker is something that comes from within a person who loves what they are doing," she said. "I have been very blessed to be one of those individuals who have loved working in the different career fields for the Air Force. Also, having a manager that empowers you to do your job just adds to wanting to come to work and do your job. It is hard to explain how managers are able to give

you a sense of belonging which make you want to work harder and achieve so much more than what your job description requires."

In the future, Sergeant Dufner said he plans to continue recognizing his people at the wing and command levels.

"We'll continue to provide USAFE and the wing with outstanding products and strive to make Incirlik No. 1 in everything we do."

Project SMART: March focuses on flight safety

By Lt. Col. Terry Armstrong
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Flight Safety chief

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – Project SMART, or smartly managing awareness, risk and threats, one of the newest additions to the Combat and Special Interest Programs emphasizing smart and safe ways of doing things, introduces a specific area of emphasis each month to help U.S. Air Forces in Europe members put operational and personal risk management techniques into practice. "Fly SMART" is the focus for March.

"Fly SMART" is an opportunity to focus on flight safety while transitioning from winter flying months to spring flying months. It is also an opportunity to think of the role each and every member of the USAFE team plays when it comes to flight safety and mission accomplishment.

With flight safety in the spotlight this month, aviators are reminded of the need to keep current with proper procedures and to be prepared for the inherent risks of aviation. Changing weather patterns, migratory

birds and high operations tempo are a few of the obvious hazards.

Flight safety does not stop with aviators. Crew chiefs, avionics specialists, phase dock technicians and logistics personnel are part of the front line to ensure aircraft launch and return without incident. Civil engineers, construction employees and contracting are equally essential in preventing military construction projects from negatively impacting flight safety and mission accomplishment. Services and medical support keeps aviation experts healthy and productive as well.

Finally, and probably most important, is the family. Every aviator, maintainer, contract employee and services professional depends on their family for personal support to make each workday a productive part of the mission accomplishment.

Use operational risk management from mission preparation to engine shutdown, and use personal risk management in everyday activities. Contact the local Project SMART point of contact, Master Sgt. Paul Thompson, 39th Air Base Wing Safety Office, at 6-7233 for more "Fly SMART" details. Keep safe, and fly smart!

Hot spot

New facility to open this summer

By 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Culbertson
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Incirlik people can look forward to an innovative entertainment facility opening early this summer, thanks to Project Power Plant.

The multi-functional facility will offer high tech games, state-of-the-art sound and light systems, wide-screen televisions, around-the-clock movies and tournaments.

"I think it will pump tremendous energy into the base," said Vic Hayes, 39th Services Squadron family member programs flight chief. "I think it will become a dynamic hot spot."

"This should make it possible for many to just hang out and not have to spend much money," said Senior Airman Jason Porter, Airmen Committed to Excellence president, also one of the organizations heading up the project. "It is something that the community needs to get people out of the dorms and present a place where you can just hang out."

Project Power Plant is a U.S. Air Forces in Europe-driven initiative to create a high-energy facility for base people. The project originated with a visit to Spangdahlem Air Base,

Germany, by Gen. Robert Foglesong, USAFE commander. Spangdahlem converted a community activity center into a fun center called the Brick House. On a routine visit, General Foglesong was so impressed by the facility, he directed all USAFE bases to come up with similar centers.

USAFE has allocated \$150,000 for Incirlik to purchase the necessary core lighting and sound equipment. Planners foresee multiple special programs being available, such as dance pad challenges, pool tables, air hockey, ski board, foosball and X-box. The facility will boast large-screen TVs and a DJ booth as well.

The facility will be located in the former Time Out building, next to the Magic Carpet bowling center and easily accessible through a shared door.

Refreshments can be bought at the bowling center and brought back to the Power Plant area.

Initially seen as a project targeting single Airmen, Mr. Hayes said the expectation now is everyone will use it.

"The entire base will benefit from this project," he said.



IN
BRIEF

Officer promotions

The March major promotees are:

Tammy Abbett, 39th Operations Squadron; Kirk Folk, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron; Derek Harris, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Andrew Hunt, 39 LRS; Jeffrey Kronewitter, 39 OS; Christopher Lane, 39th Maintenance Squadron; Andrea Miller, 39th Mission Support Squadron; Bradley Schwitters, 39th Medical Squadron; Yvonne Smith, 39 MDS; and Leonard Williams, 39th Air Base Wing staff.

Munitions flight closing

The 39th Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight will close Monday through March 31 for a semi-annual munitions stockpile inventory. The deadline for normal issue requests is today at 4 p.m. Submit emergency issue requests through the 39 MXS commander. For more information, call Master Sgt. Shoultz or Tech. Sgt. Jones at 6-8400.

Immunizations clinic

The immunizations clinic hours are Mondays through Fridays, 7:30 to 11:45 a.m., and 1 to 4 p.m., except the first and third Thursdays of the month when the clinic closes at 10 a.m. for allergy skin testing and training. There are no tuberculosis tests done on Thursdays. For more information, call 6-8254.

AAFES monitoring BDU supply

Backorders from the military supply system are affecting Army and Air Force Exchange Service Military Clothing Sales stores. Air Force MCSS are out of stock on selected sizes of enhanced hot weather and temperate battle dress uniform coats and trousers. The military supply system advised AAFES that the get-well date for temperate BDUs will be August.

Special duty briefing team

The Air Education and Training Command Special Duty Briefing Team will be here March 31. The team will give a briefing on military training instructor, recruiter and other special duties at 10 a.m. in Building 833. Senior airmen through master sergeants with less than 17 years of total active federal military service are eligible to apply. For more information, call the Career Assistance Adviser, Tech. Sgt. Roberta Williams at 6-1019, or e-mail at roberta.williams@incirlik.af.mil.



Photos by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Refueling the fight

(Above) Staff Sgt. Robert McDaniel, 190th Air Refueling Wing, Topeka Kan., crew chief, checks the oil on a KC-135. (Left) Staff Sgt. Jacob Urban, 190th ARW crew chief, helps load an engine on a KC-135. Air National Guard tanker units from all over the United States deploy to Incirlik Air Base every 30 days to fly air-refueling missions.



Courtesy photos

(Left to right) Army Lt. Col. Mary Elkins, U.S. Army's Southern Europe Veterinary Detachment veterinarian; Senior Airman Tiffany Crossley, 39th Medical Squadron lavatory technician; Staff Sgt. Caroline Wood, 39th Operations Squadron instrument procedures specialist NCO in charge; and Mike Shrope, volunteer, prepare a cat for surgery.



Army Lt. Col. Mary Elkins, U.S. Army's Southern Europe Veterinary Detachment; 1st Lt. Damika Evans, 39th Medical Group clinical nurse; and Senior Airman Jake Leyva, 39th Medical Squadron Immediate care clinic technician, spay a wild cat. Recently, 14 volunteers helped spay or neuter 16 stray cats on base to help control the stray cat population on Incirlik.

Kitty control

Volunteers help manage cat population

By Tech. Sgt. Phillips
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Recently, 14 volunteers were outfitted with gloves, food and cages, and gathered to outsmart stray cats on base.

The mission: safely secure as many stray cats as possible for a trip to the veterinary clinic to help combat the local stray population problem.

At the end of the weekend, 16 cats had been neutered, vaccinated against rabies and returned to the streets.

Capturing 16 cats was no easy feat, according to Army Lt. Col. Mary Elkins, U.S. Army's Southern Europe Veterinary Detachment veterinarian.

"It takes a high-level of planning to successfully live-trap feral cats," Colonel Elkins said. "Feral cats are naturally wary, and most active when most of us are asleep. Many base residents who have been awakened by yowling cats in the pre-dawn hours can attest to this."

With four kittens born in an average litter, the population and the subsequent noise level can soar quickly if unchecked.

While at the vet clinic, the staff and volunteers performed spay or neuter surgery, tagged the cats and checked their overall health.

Most of the volunteers prepped the cats

for surgery by shaving them, weighing them and documenting their vital statistics. A few of the volunteers, who maintain specific medical Air Force specialty codes, can also perform surgeries and dispense shots.

"With my emergency medical technician experience, I gave the shots (rabies and antibiotics), tagged their ears, applied eye ointment to prevent them from drying during the surgery and monitored their heart rate during the surgery," said Tech. Sgt. Roberta Williams, 39th Air Base Wing career assistance adviser, who volunteered because she loves animals.

For some residents, stray cats are viewed as a nuisance; however, in respect to our host nation, all animals to include feral cats, have the right to live on base.

Plus, Adana doesn't currently have a facility large enough to accept the base's stray

cat population.

"There are not enough homes for all feral cats to be adopted," Colonel Elkins said. "Spaying and neutering them is an attempt to control the population."

The clinic always needs volunteers to help control the stray cat population, which is currently estimated in the hundreds.

"I encourage anyone who is disturbed by the number of stray cats on Incirlik to become involved with this volunteer group," Colonel Elkins said.

Although some base residents turn a blind eye to the large stray cat population, the problem is personal to Tech. Sgt. Sharon Koenigstein, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron accountability NCO in charge, who has a brood of cats living outside her dorm room.

"Since there are four female cats of reproductive age at my dormitory, I want to prevent a population boom," Sergeant Koenigstein said. "I encourage families to help by spaying or neutering their own pets and by adopting stray cats. Some stray cats are completely tame and would make great pets."

For more information about how to volunteer, call Staff Sgt. Caroline Wood, 39th Operations Squadron instrument procedures specialist NCO in charge, at 6-6072, Sergeant Roberta Williams at 6-1019, or the Incirlik veterinary clinic at 6-3258.

Hidden Heroes

Contact unit volunteer coordinators or family support center base volunteer coordinator Christina Politte at 6-6755 to track and receive credit for volunteer hours.

USAFE Combat Fitness Web site offers latest fitness, sports information

By Tech. Sgt. Bob Purtiman

U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — As the Combat Fitness program kicks into high gear, Airmen worldwide are improving their physical fitness to meet the demands of combat culture.

Combat Fitness is one of 14 U.S. Air Forces in Europe combat and special interest programs that provide for the training, morale, health and fitness of USAFE personnel and their family members in preparation to maintain and sustain required readiness levels to meet peacetime and wartime taskings.

Airmen stationed in Europe now have a Web site that is the source of current fitness and sports information throughout the command. Combatfitness.org went live in January.

"If judged by the number of hits, combatfitness.org is a huge success," said Debra Ponzio, USAFE fitness and sports manager. "We had 64,040 hits in January and 85,371 in February.

"Combatfitness.org is a consolidation of fitness information from the Air Force chief of staff level to our USAFE programs to local initiatives," she explained. "It also provides a central hub for our USAFE FitLinxx initiative."

USAFE has the largest sports championship program in the Air Force and the site contains up-to-date information on each sport.

Schedules, results and application information for all sports from USAFE to Allied Air Forces North championships, Air Force training camps to Armed Forces, National and International Military Sports Council, or CISM, championships, are listed on the site.

"The whole package of opportunity has people excited to take part," Ms. Ponzio said. "In this age of technology, it fits with our busy lifestyles. People can use this site to log in fitness activities from home or work, any-time day or night."

The site is two months old and continues to grow. As the summer season begins, more schedules, results and photos will be posted.

"We will also add more fitness recognition and success stories from across the command," Ms. Ponzio said. "We hope that people will use the site as their USAFE source of current fitness and sports information."

The Incirlik Fitness Center provides personal identification numbers to help people keep a record of workout programs. For more information, visit the Incirlik FitLinxx Web site at www.incirlik.fitlinxx.com or call the fitness center at 6-6086.



SCUBA course — Outdoor recreation offers a SCUBA course, which includes training and Professional Association of Diving Instructors certification. Water training is provided in an indoor pool, plus four open water dives in Kizkalesi. Classes are ongoing. Cost is \$250. For more information, call Yasar Karalar, SCUBA instructor, at 6-6044 or e-mail incirlikdiving@yahoo.com.

Men's softball — Men's varsity softball kicks off Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at softball field No. 1. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Patrick Wikam, coordinator, at 6-3714.

Golf intro — A Get Acquainted to Hodja Lakes Golf Course and Bistro event is Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$8 and includes green fees, club rental and lunch. For more information, call the golf course pro shop at 6-3313 or 6-8995.

Blow-up boxing — The youth center sponsors a blow-up boxing day March 19 from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. for 13- to 18-year-olds. People can challenge each other in an inflatable boxing ring. Cost is \$2 and prizes will be awarded. For more information, call the youth center at 6-6670, 6-3246 or 6-3263.

Home Run Derby — The youth center sponsors a Home Run Derby March 27 at 10 a.m. for ages 8 to 18. Cost is \$2. For more information or to register, stop by the youth center or call 6-6670, 6-3246 or 6-3263.

Volunteer coaches — The youth center needs volunteers to coach youth baseball. The season runs from April 17 to June 12. To volunteer, stop by the youth center and pick up a volunteer packet. For more information, call Bo Benton, recreation specialist, at 6-6670.

Rugby — Rugby enthusiasts meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 5 p.m. at the high school sports field. Everyone is welcome. Instruction is provided for beginners. For more information, call the fitness center at 6-6086.



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III

How low can you go?

Deniz Unalmis, gymnastics instructor, assists student Briahna Thompson with a flexibility exercise Tuesday during rhythmic gymnastics class. The youth center offers the class Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 p.m. to children 5 years old and older. Cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. For more information, call the center at 6-6670, 6-3246 or 6-3263.

ACTION
LINE

Col. Bill MacLure
39th Air Base Group Commander

Taxis please

Concern: I have a question about how much taxi drivers are allowed to charge on base. When I first got here in July, I was told at the newcomer's briefing that a taxi costs \$2 to go anywhere on base. Since that time, I have heard it costs \$3 to or from base housing. One of my troops said taxi drivers charge him \$4 to \$5 from base housing. On the night of the Super Bowl, I called a taxi at approximately 11 p.m. and took it from Building 1084 next to the park to Phantom Housing. I paid the guy \$3, no problems. Then I called again at 5:30 a.m. Feb. 2 to go back to Building 1084 and handed the guy \$3, but he asked for more. I told him, "no, I was told \$3 from base hous-

ing." He said after hours they use the meter, and his meter read approximately 475,000,000 Turkish Lira, so he wanted 50 cents more. Could you please let me know what the official taxi prices are?

Response: While well-intentioned, you unfortunately didn't get a full explanation about taxi rates at the newcomer's brief. Briefers were simply trying to emphasize the importance of the taxis as an alternative to driving under the influence. To avoid confusion in the future, people will no longer be told there's a set price for taxi service at the newcomer's briefing. The taxis working on base and throughout Turkey charge according to the taxi meter. Drivers should start the meter as soon as passengers get in the taxi. Any time you take a taxi, make sure the driver turns the taxi meter on. If the driver doesn't turn it on, ask him to or point to it.

Taxi meters for the gate taxis, and those in Adana, start at 750,000 Turkish Lira and add 100,000 TL for every 100 meters. That is the daytime rate. Between midnight and 6 a.m., the night rate is charged, which can be as much as 50 percent more than the daytime rate. At night, the taxi meter starts at about 1,125,000 TL and adds 150,000 TL for every 100 meters.

If you ask a taxi to wait for you, the first five minutes are free, but 75,000 TL is added for each minute they wait for you.

If you have a problem with a taxi driver, you should get the license plate and time of the incident and report it to the taxi stand next to the main gate, or call 6-TAXI and ask to speak to the manager.

Women's History Month

A time to reflect on women's struggles, successes

By Jean Best-Richardson
39th Services Squadron

Last week I approached a young Airman and asked him to participate in our Women's History Month Program. His immediate response was, "Why isn't there a Men's History Month?"

The more I thought about it, I realized this young man probably never lived through some of the circumstances I experienced. Maybe he genuinely did not understand the condition of women in the military environment and society as a whole in the past. He encounters women of all ranks at Incirlik every day. He might see women who are commanders, doctors, lawyers, lieutenant colonels, majors, captains, chief master sergeants, senior master sergeants, master sergeants and civilian women who are officers, flight chiefs, directors and managers.

This made me think of how many young military men and women might not realize what it was like to be a female military or federal employee in 1969. Many people might not know the long strides the military took to allow women to hold positions in the military equal to men.

I was hired as a telephone operator at the

Philadelphia Naval Base Aug. 11, 1969. At that time, upper-level managers were men and women were teachers, secretaries, telephone operators or cashiers. The few women supervisors I encountered were supervisors of female employees only.

When I arrived at Hahn Air Force Base, Germany, in 1972, I was denied a job as a telephone operator because I was pregnant. After more than four years of federal work, I now couldn't get a job. After my pregnancy, I was allowed to continue my federal career.

My next base was Eglin AFB, Fla., where I was hired as a civilian personnel clerk in 1972. I worked on the Federal Women's Program. The FWP helped women apply for non-traditional jobs on the base. We provided female military spouses (most of the males were active duty) and civilian women with the information they needed to convert their volunteer experience into paid positions. We assisted women with acquiring positions as telephone linesman, construction workers, supply technicians and aided them in seeking a formal education.

Immediately after the personnel job, I became a clerical assistant in the civil engineer squadron. All the engineers were men, but the Air Force was making a serious effort to recruit female engineers. Then, women were

not only expected to type, take shorthand and make travel arrangements for the entire staff, but to make coffee as well.

So, when I think about the young man's question about why there is not a Men's History Month, I know that men had an advantage all those years because women were not readily accepted into the traditional work force. Now, we have come to a time when in the military women receive the same salary as men for the same quality and quantity of work.

Hopefully, we will come to a time when women will receive the same salary as men for the same quality and quantity of work in all career paths. One day that glass ceiling might shatter and women can earn their proper place in work force and we will no longer need a Women's History Month.

Women's History, African-American, Asian Pacific and many other history and observance months were formed to educate people about the contributions these groups have made to our nation and embrace cultural diversity through understanding. For more information or to get involved with these and other recognition observances, call the military equal opportunity office at 6-6210.

Turkish government

Question: How is the Turkish government organized? How often are elections held in Turkey? Can you tell us about the political structure of Turkey?

Response: The Turkish governmental system resembles England's system, and the Turkish Constitution clearly marks the separation of the three powers of legislative, executive and judiciary.

Legislative power is exercised by the Turkish Grand National Assembly, generally referred to as parliament. It has 550 deputies representing the 81 provinces of Turkey. Deputies are appointed elected through direct elections for a five-year term. The number of deputies for each province is determined by the population of the province. For instance, Adana has 14 deputies while Istanbul has more than 50 at parliament.

The National Assembly enacts, amends and abrogates, or annuls, laws, monitors the actions of the Council of Ministers (cabinet) and ministers, delegates to the Council of Ministers authority to issue "Decrees in Power of Law" for specific subjects, debates and passes the budget and bills for final accounts, and ratifies the printing of currency, the declaration of war and international agreements.

The speaker of the national assembly also assumes presidential duties in the absence of the president on account of illness, foreign travel or death.

Executive power is exercised by the president and Council of Ministers. The president is elected for a single term of seven years from among members of the national assembly or among Turkish citizens 40 years or older who are eligible to be elected to parliament. The current president is Ahmet Necdet Sezer who was elected May 16, 2000.

The president summons the national assembly to session, publishes law, returns laws to parliament for reconsideration, decides upon renewal of parliamentary elections, appoints or accepts the resignation of the prime minister and presides over the Council of Ministers.

The president can't have political ties with any single political party. As the head of the state, he or she represents the Republic of Turkey and the integrity of the Turkish nation. The president appoints the Turkish representatives abroad.

Traditionally, the majority party leader is appointed as the prime minister. The prime minister appoints the ministers. The prime minister and the Council of Ministers are considered the actual rulers of the country.

In addition to the elected mayors, every province has a governor, and every town has a sub-governor appointed by the government as the highest authority of the province or the town. Governors and sub-governors are appointed for an indefinite time.

Judiciary power is exercised by the independent courts on behalf of the Turkish nation.

ASK

MEHMET



By Mehmet Birbiri, Host Nation Adviser

Turkish elections

Question: I see the streets and walls are decorated with banners and posters. A friend of mine told me that Turkey will have elections soon. Will you tell us more about the elections in Turkey?

Response: Your friend is right, Turkey holds local elections March 28.

Elections in Turkey are a lot more colorful than in the United States or any European country. As you have noticed, all the streets and walls are decorated with banners and flags of the political parties and the posters of candidates.

Convoys of cars also drive through the streets of the cities as part of the political campaign of the parties, which leads to traffic congestion in the city streets. The convoys have loud speakers announcing the party's and/or the candidates' propaganda all day.

As election day approaches, you will see more and more convoys and political gatherings.

Every Turkish citizen who has reached the age of 18 has the right to vote in elections. Voting starts at 7 a.m. and continues all day. Therefore, traffic will be a bit busier than regular Sunday traffic.

There is no curfew, but carrying firearms, except Turkish security forces personnel on duty, and consuming alcoholic beverages, is banned on that day.

Local elections are held for a five-year term. The last local election for mayors, city councils and other local administrations was in 1999.

Citizens will vote for mayors, city councils, district chiefs (muhtar) and district elders' council.




Photo by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda

Banners displayed in Incirlik Village serve as a colorful reminder of the March 28 Turkish elections. In addition to banners, Turkey hails upcoming elections with convoys and loud-speaker announcements. Adana traffic peaks during election day.

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE



Today

Games night — Children ages 6 through 12 can participate in games night from 6 to 8 p.m. at the youth center. Cost is \$4 for members or \$5 for non-members and includes grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, beverages, game areas and Sumo wrestling. For more information, call 6-6670, 6-3246 or 6-3263.

Saturday

Silent auction — Incirlik's Top III Association sponsors a silent auction from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the base exchange.

Tuesday

Book club meeting — The library book club meets at 7 p.m. in the library. The novel for discussion is *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom. For more information, call 6-6759.

Wednesday

56 Club meeting — The club will meet at 3 p.m. in the enlisted lounge at the consolidated club. The 56 Club provides a networking forum for staff and technical sergeants, including selectees, creating a cross-flow of ideas. For more information, visit <http://source/56CLUB/Index.htm> or call 6-6315.

Thursday

Sultan Inn's quarterly birthday meal — The Incirlik dining facility invites active-duty people whose birthdays were in January, February or March to a birthday meal at 6 p.m. Birthday meals include table service and one guest is permitted. R.S.V.P to first sergeants by 4 p.m. March 12.

Upcoming

Club member appreciation — The club membership appreciation

breakfast is March 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Non-members will be charged \$5.95, guests \$2.95, children 6 to 12 \$1.95 and children under 5 are free. For more information, call the club at 6-6101.

Family Night — Family Night at the club is March 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, call the club at 6-6101.

Ongoing

Consolidated Club changes — The club reduced selected services. The club will not serve breakfast Tuesdays and Saturdays and will start closing at 4 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons. The two for one steak night will move from Tuesdays to Thursdays. For more information, call the club administration at 6-6101.

Airlift/Tanker Assoc. — Incirlik is forming an Airlift/Tanker Association chapter. A/TA is an organization that promotes the development of the nation's air mobility capabilities and supports the research and advancement of aerospace power through scholarships, financial loans and grants. For more information, call Lt. Col. Janon Ellis, 728th Air Mobility Squadron commander, at 6-6710.

Girl Scouts — The Incirlik Girl Scouts are looking for an overseas committee chair. Applicants must have managerial, verbal and written communication skills, and 18 months time left on station. For more information, call Donna Pena at 6-6800, or Wendy Dostart at 6-2353.

Boy Scout volunteers — Boy Scout Troop 218 seeks a scoutmaster, assistant scoutmasters and other volunteers. For more information, call Luke Dechant, troop committee chairman, at 6-5527 or e-mail lucas.dechant@incirlik.af.mil.

Language classes — The community center offers both conversational English and conversational Turkish classes from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$25 for four classes. For more information, call 6-6966.

COMBAT & SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS



Today

Children's story hour — Project Wizard presents a story hour for children from 10:30 to 11 a.m. in addition to the story, snacks and crafts will be provided. This event is open to pre-school children. For more information, call 6-6759.

Monday

Volunteer Excellence Award nominations due — This award recognizes federal civilians, family members, and military and federal retirees who have provided exceptional volunteer service benefitting a large portion of the Incirlik community or provided service in a number of different agencies. Nomination packages are due to Christina Politte, 39th Mission Support Squadron family life specialist, by 4 p.m. today. For more information, call Ms. Politte at 6-6755 or e-mail christina.politte@incirlik.af.mil.

Upcoming

Recognize volunteers — To recognize Incirlik volunteers, e-mail a list of people who have volunteered their time and service to the community in the past year to Christine Politte, 39th Mission Support Squadron family life specialist, at christina.politte@incirlik.af.mil. Names must be received by March 19 to be included in the tribute to volunteerism during National Volunteer Week. For more information, call Ms. Politte at 6-6755.

Madden challenge — Project Cheer sponsors a Madden

football challenge at the community center March 20 from 12:30 to 6 p.m. The cost is \$10 and the winner takes the cash. For more information, call 6-6966.

Chess tourney — Project Cheer hosts a chess tourney March 21 at the community center from 4 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person and the winner takes cash. For more information, call 6-6966.

Scrabble tournament — Project Cheer sponsors a Scrabble tournament March 23 at the community center from 6 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$2 per person and the winner takes the cash. For more information, call 6-6966.

National Volunteer Week — Volunteers are needed to plan events and activities for National Volunteer Week April 18 to 24. For more information or to volunteer, call Christina Politte, 39th Mission Support Squadron family life specialist, at 6-6755.

Ongoing

Hidden Heroes volunteers — The Hidden Heroes office seeks volunteers. For more information or to view a list of volunteer opportunities in the Incirlik community, call 6-6755.

Combat CARE car care — The family support center is giving away vouchers for free minor car maintenance to family members of deployed servicemembers. For more information, call the FSC at 6-6755.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Maj. Bernadette Anderson, 39th Medical Squadron women's health and family nurse practitioner

Time on station: Five months

Hometown: Ho, Ghana; adopted home for last 25 years is Houston, Texas

Hobbies: Cooking, shopping and watching TV sports — football and basketball

How do you contribute to the air base wing's mission? "My primary job places me in a position that readies troops for their mission by ensuring women have their annual, preventative healthcare accomplished, eliminating disease and assuring family-centered care for expectant families so that they can focus on the mission, whether here on base

or deployed."

What do you like most about Incirlik?

The closeness of the community, the smiles that greet you when you step out of your house. It's like a sign of acceptance, something like an "epidemic" from the local culture embracing you into one big family.

Why did you join the Air Force? "I joined the Air Force to be a part of a global force of men, women and families who have given so much of their lives for our freedom in the world."

What's your favorite motto and why?

"'Preserverance, the key to success.' This was instilled in me by my parents during my childhood in Africa and has contributed significantly to my success through education and hard work."

What Air Force core values best describe you, and why? "The two core values that shape my life are integrity and service before self. With integrity, I am able to provide services to others requiring my care, and at the end of the day, I am able to look straight into the mirror with contentment and say, "I did the best I humanly could and look up to God and thank him for using me today."

YOUR TURN



To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

What woman or women have most affected you and why?

"My mother ... she's a strong black woman and she made me the person I am today."

– **Senior Airman Shenika Fegins, 39th Mission Support Squadron**



"My wife ... she gave me a family and she's the perfect mother. She is a good role model to show the importance of loving and taking care of a child and a husband."

– **Capt. Brad Waters, 39th Air Base Group**



"My grandmother ... she was the first woman in Buffalo, N.Y., to own her own business. She made education a key success in my life, and no matter how bad things were in my personal life, she was always a driven professional with compassion for work and the people who worked for her."

– **Senior Airman Takuya Tyree, 39th Security Forces Squadron**



"Chief Master Sgt. Linda Ross, Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. ... she's a good role model for young women in the military. Not only did she make chief early, she's a single mother and she's finishing her degree. She shows hard work and determination matter."

– **Senior Airman Mandy Ellis, 39th Communications Squadron**



"My wife ... she is always there to support me when I need it. I appreciate that."

– **Staff Sgt. David Holman, 39th Medical Squadron**



CLASSIFIEDS

For sale: Computer desk, like new, \$20, call 6-5811.

For sale: 2 standard lamps, 6 ft. tall. Modern up-light type, simple no-fuss design. Both in good working order, barely used. One dark green, and one matt black. Call Kelly at 6-5790 or 05355484247.

For sale: Beautiful persian HANDMADE carpet. The base colors are deep red/burgundy but the carpet incorporates many different colors. Traditional intricate "medallion" design. Measures 12.5 ft. X 9.5 ft., perfect for base house living room. Not available in the Alley. Taking offers of \$500. Best offer 10 days from publication secures carpet. Call Kelly at 6-5790, or 05355484247.

For sale: 1989 Toyota Corola, "Japanese Specs," great dependable car, \$1,200 OBO. Call Carolyn at 6-2410.

For sale: 1989 Toyota Town Ace 4-wheel drive van, great condition, low mileage, \$3,200. Call Tonya at 6-2129 or 6-8070.

For sale: Floor model television, older but in great condition, great for kid's play room or for games, cable ready with input and output jacks. Call Staff Sgt. Smith at 6-6729 or 6-5254.

For sale: Couch, loveseat and recliner, all re-

cline, \$1,000; crib, mattress, sheet set, padding and diaper holder, \$150; Graco car seat (infant, toddler and booster), \$60; wet vacuum carpet cleaner, used four times, \$50; patio set with umbrella, \$100; matching swing with extra cushion covers, \$50; men's bike, \$20; and women's bike, \$50. Call 6-2236.

For sale: Six-piece entertainment center, made at Redwoods, made less than eight months ago, \$1,500 OBO. Call Dave at 6-2372.

For sale: Antique carpets from Kayseri, can't find in the Alley, \$750 each. Call 6-5683.

For sale: Assorted toddler toys, including easel with clip, Legos, trucks, a Sit-n-Spin and stuffed animals; various Tupperware products; couch; and toddler clothes; all in great condition. Call for prices at 6-5191.



The above is the solution for the crossword puzzle published in the March 5 edition of the Tip of the Sword. For more information, e-mail the Tip of the Sword staff at tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil.



Photos by Senior Airman Michelle Miranda

Getting acquainted

(Above) Ferhat Monur, Golf Pro Shop assistant manager, helps customer, Billie Hall, purchase golf balls. **(Right)** Albert Hobrecht practices his putting technique at the Hodja Lakes Golf Course. The base golf course is sponsoring a Get acquainted with Hodja Lakes Golf Course and Bistro days Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone interested can play golf for \$8, which includes green fees, club rentals and lunch. For more information, call the Golf Pro Shop at 6-3313 or 6-8995. The next Link up 2 Golf orientation is March 24 at 5:30 p.m. For more information about Link Up 2 Golf or to sign up, visit the Golf Pro Shop or www.linkup2golf.com.



AT THE MOVIES

At the Oasis

Today

Stuck on You (PG-13) – Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear. Conjoined twins have dreams of making it big in Hollywood. When they arrive in town, they're cast on a television show starring Cher. She's bummed about being relegated to television until her show becomes a hit. Showing at 7 p.m. (97 minutes)



Saturday

Cheaper by the Dozen (PG) – Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt. When a football coach is offered the top job at Northwestern University, he sets out for Chicago with his wife and their 12 children. When her writing ca-

reer takes off, the two must balance their jobs and the chaotic task of parenting. Showing at 5 p.m. (98 minutes)



The Last Samurai (R) – Tom Cruise and Ken Watanabe. A 19th-century American military officer travels to Japan to help organize and teach the emperor's troops during a time of feudal conflict on the island. As he learns more about the samurai, the traditional protectors of feudal lands, he comes to understand and appreciate the complicated system of honor under which they live. Showing at 7 p.m. (144 minutes)

Sunday

Peter Pan (PG) – Jason Issacs and Jeremy Sumpter. One night in their nursery, young London siblings Wendy, John and Michael Darling encounter a strange flying boy named Peter Pan, who invites them to soar with him to Neverland. There they live among the Lost Boys without adult supervision and face



down the nasty Captain Hook. Showing at 3 p.m. (105 minutes)

Honey (PG-13) – Jessica Alba and Mekhi Phifer. Showing at 7 p.m. (94 minutes)

Thursday

Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) – Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton. Showing at 7 p.m. (133 minutes)

At the M1

Brother Bear (PG) — 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. (85 minutes)

Mona Lisa Smile — 11 a.m., 4:15 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and midnight (117 minutes)

Cold Mountain (R) — 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. (155 minutes)

Scary Movie (R) — 11:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:15 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. (84 minutes)

The Last Samurai (R) — 1 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. (154 minutes)

Cheaper by the Dozen — 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. (98 minutes)

Something's Gotta Give (PG-13) — 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (128 minutes)

Seabiscuit (R) — 10:30 a.m., 1:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and midnight (96 minutes)

The provision of movie information does not constitute an endorsement by the 39th Air Base Group, U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the U.S. Air Force.